

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-19. (Cancelled).

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) A kit for screening a compound or its salt that promotes or inhibits the activity of ~~the a~~ protein comprising the amino acid of SEQ ID NO:1 or its salt ~~according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its salt thereof~~, which comprises;

(a) the protein or its salt; and

(b) a substrate of the protein~~according to claim 1 or the partial peptide or its salt thereof.~~

Claims 21-115. (Cancelled).

Claim 116. (New) The kit according to claim 20, wherein the substrate of the protein is a steroid hormone.

Claim 117. (New) The kit according to claim 116, wherein the steroid hormone is selected from the group consisting of estrogen and androgen.

Claim 118. (New) The kit according to claim 117, wherein the estrogen is estrone or metabolites thereof and the androgen is dehydroepiandrosterone or metabolites thereof.